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GENERAL JOAQUIN CRESPO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA.



IT IS of interest to note that Gen. Joaquin Crespo, President of the Republic of Venezuela, whose photograph is herewith presented, is to-day one of the leading men of the Western Hemisphere.

By the kindness of Mr. C. M. Coen, of our city, we are enabled in this edition to present to our readers the likeness of one of the most famous and distinguished citizens of the Southern Republics. It has been conceded by friend and foe that

his ability as a military leader is of the highest order; but he has also shown beyond question that he possesses executive ability of great magnitude.

He administers the laws of his country with promptness and justice. He has twice been President and once Dictator. When one considers the fact that their country is so devoid of telegraphic and railroad communications on the exterior, you may imagine the many difficulties to overcome and the adroitness necessary to establish and maintain a perfect government over all the country. There are always a class of people on the outer borders of any country—ours as well—who must be controlled with an iron hand; he also possesses that quality. When General Crespo was first elected President for a two-year term, he served the people well and faithfully, then resigning to his successor with grace and dignity; he was afterward elected a member of Congress. While serving in this capacity the term of the President was extended from two to four years; the then President claimed he had a right to serve the full four years, without re-election. This action on his part was claimed to be unconstitutional and as such was disapproved of by the people.

General Crespo was chosen to take the lead, and a revolution was inaugurated to put down this undemocratic dictation on the part of the then President; how well he succeeded is known in history. He was always found in the lead of his armies, never in the rear. His

actions in military service were deliberate, decisive and judicious, and as humane as civilized warfare can be carried on. He then became Dictator until such time as the government could be re-organized, after which he was again elected the President of Venezuela. He called to his cabinet the ablest statesmen in the Republic; but he, himself, looks after many details of his government, more, in fact, than our President was ever called upon to perform. His term of office expires in about one and one-half years, and it is well known that he will gracefully resign his office to his successor. The country is in perfect peace within itself, although, as we are aware, sections of its territory are threatened by foreign powers.

He is high up in Scottish Rite Masonry, and is a member (simply as a citizen) of the Continental American Patriots, who are so numerous in this country, and

who will no doubt be not only of great moral support, but, if need be, will render physical and financial assistance to him and his people, should that country be involved in strife for its freedom against monarchical powers. It is well known that the object of this order is to bind together all citizens of the North, Central and South American countries as one man for the protection of the freedom of each and every Republic on the Western Hemisphere. This we consider to be the most laudable, worthy and Christian-like order in existence.

Who the successor of General Crespo will be is, of course, an open question—many good citizens are spoken of. The one best known in this country is General Ignacio Andrade, who is now the Governor

of the State of Miranda, one of the most important States in the Republic of Venezuela. This gentleman has the respect and confidence of General Crespo and the people of his country. General Andrade is a typical Venezuelan gentleman, and bears a name for uprightness and honor to be envied by any American citizen; he is active and reliable in both business and politics, and greatly desires the prosperity of his people.

If General Andrade or any candidate of his ability and fitness succeed to the Presidency after Mr. Crespo, peace and prosperity in that Republic will be permanent.



We hear of revolutions at times, but even reliable information is often magnified by sensational newspapers, and might be compared to some of our little strikes in factories, where a few people are dissatisfied from some local cause, and, as they absolutely amount to nothing, should not be dignified by the term "revolution." There has been no revolution for four and a half years. If any of our citizens desire to invest money in that country, whose natural resources are beyond conception, they need have no fear in that direction in the future.

It is said that secret plans are being evolved in the interest of a few persons there, and that others, who have heretofore been presidents of that Republic, are scheming to raise a revolution, commencing in the back country, and then attack the seaport towns by water. These people take their basis for a successful revolution upon the following grounds: 1st. That the present government's great weakness is its belief in its own strength; that is, it believes itself so strong, that it cannot be defeated, and consequently is not making the preparations necessary to withstand an attack of a revolutionary party from both land and sea. 2d. That the present government does not expend money enough among the people for public improvements, consequently there is a great dissatisfaction existing throughout the country. 3d. That under former presidents times were extremely prosperous because of the expenditures of great amounts of public money, and improvements, consequently better times, and great prosperity and happiness. 4th. That under the present policy the people claim a few are getting rich, while many are making a meagre existence, and no public moneys being expended, while at the same time the natural resources of the country are so great, that needed public improvements might be advanced upon a credit basis, and eventually be paid without any hardship whatever to future generations, but rather contribute to their advantage, happiness and prosperity.

While these conditions may exist (in a more or less degree), it is believed the so-called revolutionary parties will never have the honor or credit of putting them into execution, as the present administration is preparing to do so, and the incoming administration will no doubt faithfully carry out the ideas and wishes of the people for public improvements upon an economical and permanent basis, as well as for defences of its coast against any such anticipated attacks. The present government has up to this time been recovering from the last necessary revolution, and has had no time or opportunity as yet to organize a system for permanent public improvements. All the desires and wishes of the people have been anticipated already by the present administration, who are preparing to carry out a system at this time which will no doubt be entirely satisfactory to the whole country, not upon a pretended basis of improvements with the single idea of distributing money to please a few people, but they must and will be of a necessary and lasting nature, and will be distributed over the entire Republic. The policy will not be to spend money uselessly. Their coast defences will be executed so quietly that the internal opposition to the government cannot accomplish any of their ideas, or carry into execution any of their schemes upon the seaport cities. No doubt the government will call to their aid in handling their fleet some man whose ability and sincerity is unquestioned, in directing these vessels in an economical and effective manner.

General Crespo is erecting one of the finest mansions in South America for a home, and no doubt the people of our country will have an opportunity to place a great deal of the expensive furnishings necessary to complete his palatial residence.

SOME DECORATIVE POINTS FOR WARM WEATHER.



MAKE rooms cool and pleasant is the first law of summer decoration. The rolling-blind, although greatly used, is coming more and more to the front. In two ways it has an advantage—it keeps out the sun, and tempers the light.

For small and narrow windows in country houses the Japanese crepe, hung by thin brass rods, is very artistic as sash curtains.

In a smoking-room where there is a low window an oak bench fills an excellent need. It can be fitted up with good-sized drawers, and makes a stowaway place for books and magazines. For the bench a corduroy cushion in brown completes this comfortable affair.

As a wall covering for summer in a dining-room, denim in grey tones is a delightful furnishing. As a background for pictures nothing could be better.

For piazzas this season the sofa and chair, covered with fine Japanese matting, are very attractive. They wear well, and are reasonable in price.

Upper porches now rejoice in a curtain made of striped awning. It is hung by brass rings on a manilla rope, which serves as a pole to pull it backward and forward.

In warm weather the wildflower makes for the afternoon tea a good decoration. They can be grouped in three cut-glass vases, placed at equal distances apart, on a long and narrow strip of linen, embroidered in white.

To make rooms refreshingly cool, blue, of all the colors, is the most charming. For a country living-room, give to the woodwork an excellent coating of delicate blue paint, on the wall a paper in which this same hue is the principal treatment. If possible let chairs, tables and bookcases be of the same tint, but on the floor place at equal distances from each other strips of rag carpet. When finished it will produce such a restful charm, besides an appearance of simplicity is gained that was never thought of before.

For an al fresco breakfast let your table be placed on that part of the piazza where the light is not too strong, if possible in a corner where there is a vine. Select a damask in small figures, and china in white and gold, or in delicate green ornamentations; for floral decorations simple wildflowers and grasses are best.

Embroideries for the summer should be in white. Colors of any kind are apt to give a warm effect, with one exception, blue, which is restful at all times.

Low ceilings in country houses should be papered with only a small figure. For the windows, green linen shades or sash curtains of India silk, in delicate patterns. Floor coverings, of grey filling, with rugs.

To decorate a hall stove in a country house in summer, commence at the bottom and work towards the top. With good-sized branches and trailing vines mass the stand and body of the stove, until the green covers all and hides completely this black object. Then place on the top a jug of grey pottery. Fill this to overflowing with wildflowers and field grasses. If there is a long pipe in question twine it with some vine which is thick and bushy. This scheme is excellent where an evening decoration is desired.

Pillows of denim in green, blue and old rose are particularly good if well ruffled, and with conventional designs in white.

The latest loving cups are of cut glass set in silver frames. Now and again they are put to their legitimate use, as on the occasion of a marriage or betrothal, but are more often made receptacles for blossoms.